

What is claimed is:

1 1. A location independent and platform independent method for a user receiving
2 a signal regarding the occurrence of an event of interest comprising:
3 before the occurrence of said event of interest;
4 defining rules regarding how said signal is transmitted to said user depending
5 upon where the user is located and what the user is doing when said event of
6 interest occurs;
7 filtering information from an information source to identify the occurrence of the
8 external event;
9 after the occurrence of said event of interest;
10 sending a signal to said user according to said rules, and where said user is
11 located and what said user is doing when said event of interest occurs; and
12 interpreting said signal to enable said user to respond to said occurrence of said
13 event in substantially real-time.

1 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said signal is sent over various
2 electronic communication mediums and using various signaling mechanisms as
3 stipulated by said rules.

1 3. The method according to claim 2, wherein said rules comprise priority rules,
2 said priority rules dictating circumstances regarding how to send said signal
3 depending upon where said user is located and what said user is doing, said

priority rules also dictating a particular electronic device that said user prefers to receive signals and alerts under those circumstances; and wherein said sending of said signal is performed only after determining an appropriate priority rule from a ranked a series of said priority rules.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said user receives said signal with an electronic device, and wherein said electronic device interprets said signal and is selected from the group consisting of a personal computer, a network terminal, a web-enabled cellular phone, and a personal digital assistant.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

after said user is alerted by said signal, performing at least one action in response to the occurrence of said event.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein simultaneously with sending said signal to said user, a customized response path for said user is generated so as to simplify the performing of said at least one action in response to the occurrence of said event.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said synchronizing of said customized response path includes preparing a telephone operator to receive a telephone call from said user, wherein said action in response to the alerting comprises said user placing said telephone call, and wherein said user is instructed by said synchronization to provide customized information regarding said event of interest to said user.

1 8. The method according to claim 6, wherein said synchronizing of said
2 customized response path includes instructing a webserver to redirect requests
3 for a predefined web address to a second web address containing customized
4 information relating said user and said event of interest.

1 9. The method according to claim 8, wherein said predefined web address is a
2 URL specific to and known by said user, and wherein said at least one action in
3 response to said alerting of said event comprises said user requesting said URL
4 from said webserver.

1 10. The method according to claim 4, further comprising:
2 performing after said signal is interpreted at least one action in response to the
3 occurrence of said event.

1 11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said at least one action is
2 performed with said electronic device and is of a type selected from the group
3 consisting of generating an alert perceivable by said user, establishing an
4 automated connection over the Internet, the launching of one or more
5 applications, configuring one or more applications, installing one or more
6 applications, sending a confirmation signal, and making a telephone call.

1 12. The method according to claim 11, wherein said alert comprises directing
2 said user to automatically connect to the Internet by performing a prompted
3 action, said prompted action being selected from the group consisting of clicking
4 on a button, entering a PIN number, and depressing a key.

25. A system for sending signals in substantially real-time after occurrences of events of interest comprising a network and one or more electronic communication devices connected over one or more communication mediums, said network comprising:

- an information source filter; said filter adapted to determine the occurrence of the events of interest;

- a data store for recording a series of rules that define how to send signals regarding the occurrence of the event of interest when said event occurs; and

- a communication medium through which a signal indicating the occurrence of said event of interest can be sent to said electronic communication device after the occurrence; and

each of said electronic communication devices comprising:

- a receiver adapted to receive said signal over said communication mediums; and

wherein said electronic communication devices are adapted to interpret said received signal so as to initiate one or more appropriate actions in response to the occurrence of said event of interest.

26. The system according to claim 25 further comprising a server; said server being adapted to select and use an appropriate signaling mechanism and communication medium, and said server being adapted to send said signal to said communication devices depending upon said series of rules.

27. The system according to claim 25, wherein said devices have software that provides logic for receiving and interpreting said signals from said network.

28. The system according to claim 27, wherein said electronic communication devices comprise mobile telephones and said software comprises signal receipt and interpretation technology selected from the group consisting of caller identification technology, short message services technology, polling technology, and morse signaling technology.

29. The system according to claim 26, wherein said filter is located remotely from said server and in electronic communication with said server such that said filter electronically transmits a trigger to said server in substantially real time whenever one of said events of interest occur.

30. The system according to claim 25 wherein said data store is a relational database, and said relational database contains said rules to identify events of interest for a plurality of users.

31. An electronic communication device for receiving signals from a network regarding an occurrence of an event of interest, said device comprising:

- software embodying instructions for receiving signals from said network and interpreting said signals to perform an action, said action being selected from the group consisting of playing an audible alert, displaying a visible alert, launching a device application, configuring a device application, providing input to a device application, and installing a device application, wherein said action facilitates the task of responding to the event.

32. The device according to claim 31, wherein said software is adapted to receive and interpret signals comprising short message services messages containing Internet addresses, said short message services messages instructing a user of said device to access the Internet address in order to obtain customized information that facilitates responding to the event of interest.

33. The device according to claim 32, wherein said software is further adapted to extract said Internet addresses from said short message services message and initiate an online session with said device, said online session automatically accessing said extracted addresses such that said user is provided with customized information that facilitates the task of responding to the event of interest.

34. The device according to claim 31, wherein said software is adapted to receive signals comprising uncompleted phone calls having caller identification information contained therein and to interpret those signals using a local database that associates known alert phone numbers with alert messages, said software causing said device to display said associated alert message if said caller identification information matches said alert phone numbers wherein said displaying of said alert message indicates the availability of customized information regarding the occurrence of an event of interest by accessing a predefined Internet location.

35. The device according to claim 34, wherein said device further comprises means for accessing the Internet, and wherein said means for accessing the

Internet automatically accesses said predefined Internet location upon connecting to the Internet.

36. The device according to claim 35, wherein said device comprises a web enabled mobile telephone and said means for accessing the Internet comprises web browsing software on said mobile telephone, and wherein said startup URL for said web browsing software is configured to be said predefined Internet location such that said browser automatically accesses customized information relating to said event of interest upon being launched.

37. The device according to claim 31, wherein said software is adapted to receive signals generated using signaling mechanisms of types selected from the group consisting of caller identification technology, short message services technology, polling technology, and morse signaling technology.

38. The device according to claim 31, wherein said software is adapted to store user profile information on said device, said profile information being usable by said device in performing said action.